

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Changes and Support

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6; claim 6 is canceled.

Claim 1 is also amended to clarify and simplify the claim language in light of the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection.

Claims 12 and 13 are amended to be consistent with claim 1 as amended.

Objection to the Specification

In response to the objection, the specification has been amended.

Rejection of claims 1, 3, 6-9, 11-13, 16, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claim 1 is amended to remedy the objection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicant submits that claim 1 as amended overcomes this rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 11, 16, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 6,993,205 (Lorie)

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6 which was allowed by the previous Office Action dated December 24, 2009. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable.

Dependent claims 3, 7, 8, 11, 16, 18, and 20 depend from, and include all the limitations of independent claim 1, which is shown to be allowable for the reasons given above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of dependent claims 3, 7, 8, 11, 16, 18, and 20 and requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,993,205 (Lorie) in view of USPN 5,461,459 (Muramatsu)

Dependent claim 9 depends from, and includes all the limitations of independent claim 1, which is shown to be allowable for the reasons given above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of dependent claim 9 and requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Such action is earnestly solicited by the Applicant. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney or agent at the telephone number indicated below.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 503437.

Respectfully submitted,
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